



# SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release – February 9, 2009**

## SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES OFFICER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

Senior Police Officer Mark M. Stuart, who is assigned to the Patrol Division of the Salem Police Department, has been selected by his peers as “Officer of the Year” for 2008 after he saved a citizen’s life.

On May 29, 2008, Stuart was dispatched to the intersection of Colorado St. and Rowan St. in reference to an unresponsive female. After arriving at the accident, he saw a bicyclist lying on the ground and quickly assessed her condition, determining that she was apneic and did not have a pulse.

Officer Stuart immediately called for EMS personnel with a “code blue” and began CPR. He and a “good Samaritan,” who was fortunately nearby, continued CPR until the EMS crew arrived. The female was then transported to Lewis Gale Medical Center.

“I’m really honored that my peers would not only nominate me for this award, but then select me to receive it,” says Officer Stuart. “I’ve been in the Patrol Division for over 20 years and the outcome of being trained in CPR was very positive on this occasion.”

The investigation of the incident later revealed that the woman was riding her bicycle and suddenly collapsed due to an irregular cardiac rhythm. Thanks to Officer Stuart’s quick actions and his professional response, the female cyclist was able to make a full recovery.

“I’m proud of Mark for doing such a good job of evaluating the situation and taking prompt action,” says Salem Police Chief James R. Bryant. “It looked like an innocent bike wreck, but Mark knew exactly what to do, and his quick thinking ended up saving this woman’s life.”

Officer Stuart, who is a graduate of Jefferson County High School in Danbridge, Tennessee, began his Law Enforcement career with the Salem Police Department on August 25, 1988. He was promoted to his present rank of Senior Police Officer on April 1, 1994. During his twenty

year tenure, he has served the Patrol Division, and was assigned to the Services Division as a D.A.R.E. officer from October 2004 to August 2007.

“Mark did an outstanding service to a citizen and I’m excited for him that his peers have recognized him with this great compliment for a job well done,” says Chief Bryant.

Mark and his wife Ruth Ann, make their home in Salem along with their son, Andrew and two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth.

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